



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority
One Ashburton Place, Room 1109
Boston, MA 02108*

MITT ROMNEY
Governor

KERRY HEALEY
Lieutenant Governor

THOMAS H. TRIMARCO
Board Chair

JON M. KINGSDALE
Executive Director

Massachusetts Health Care Quality and Cost Council

Minutes

August 23, 2006

1:00PM-3:00PM

One Ashburton Place

Boston, MA 02108

21st Floor, Conference Room 2

Attendees: Tim Murphy, Charlie Baker, Alice Moore, Christopher DeLorey, Elizabeth Capstick, Dolores Mitchell, James Conway, Gregory Sullivan, Robert Seifert, Kenneth LaBresh, Kevin Beagan (designee for Julie Bowler), and Thomas Lee (via telephone).

- I. **Welcome and Opening Remarks by the Chair:** Secretary Timothy Murphy called the inaugural meeting of the Massachusetts Health Care Quality and Cost Council to order. He welcomed the members and thanked them for volunteering their time to serve as a member of the council. Secretary Murphy made opening remarks concerning the opportunities, challenges, and tasks ahead for the council.
- II. **Board Member Introductions:** Each member of the board introduced themselves and spoke about why they are interested in Health Care Quality and Cost and their goals for the council. After the members finished introducing themselves, Secretary Murphy reviewed the Agenda for the day's meeting. Next, Secretary Murphy used a Power Point Presentation to review key features of the Health Care Quality and Cost Council. First, Secretary Murphy reviewed the new Healthcare Reform Act and discussed programs and product initiatives of the Act. Lastly, he reviewed the Council's mission, objectives, powers, and responsibilities.
- III. **Review of Governing Statutes:** Judi Goldberg, Deputy General Counsel, discussed governing statutes with the Council members. These statutes included a summary of the open meeting law, general rules applicable to the council under the open meeting law, conflict of interest law, and the public records law. Ms. Goldberg answered questions from council members and provided the members with additional resources and information to better answer their inquiries.
- IV. **Overview of Massachusetts Health Care Quality and Cost Trends:** Secretary Murphy used a Power Point presentation to discuss the health care quality and cost trends in Massachusetts and provide the council members with an understanding of these trends.

The Secretary's presentation reviewed and compared Massachusetts and other states' health expenditures, individual and family premiums, health quality performance of Massachusetts and other states, Massachusetts effort to lead the way with quality Commercial Health Plans, health care areas Massachusetts performs well, average, and below average, and the existing quality and cost initiatives. This presentation spurred discussion amongst the board members and raised concerns about methods and resources to utilize for health care quality and cost initiatives.

- V. **Presentation of Select Health Care Quality and Cost Initiatives:** John Freedman presented details about and discussed the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices Grant. This presentation introduced suggested goals, criteria to prioritize and implement, and strategies to develop in order to improve health care services and population health. A discussion amongst the council members ensued concerning the grants components, strategies, methods, and the effect these practices would have on individuals and hospitals. Afterwards, Amy Lischko, Director of Health Care Policy, demonstrated proper use of the health care quality and cost website, which was set up by her agency in 2005. Through a presentation, Ms. Lischko navigated the members through the website and showed how consumers and producers could utilize the data available on the site. Ms. Lischko answered council members' questions concerning data updates and future improvements to the site.
- VI. **Policy Transparency Proposal:** Michael Grenier, from the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, gave a Power Point presentation concerning the Price Transparency Proposal. In this presentation, Mr. Grenier reviewed the Chapter 58 mandate, suggestions for the Price Transparency initiative, data collection methods and content, and presented a timeline for implementation.
- VII. **Housekeeping and Administration:** Secretary Murphy emphasized the importance of monthly meetings, and the Council will try to meet the third week in September, preferably on September 20th. Next, Secretary Murphy presented his suggestions for Council sub-committees, including Governance, Data Collection, Public Education, and Quality Measures sub-committees. He asked the council to think about these sub-committees and at the next meeting vote on and establish the sub-committees, while also establishing an advisory committee. A discussion followed with council members voicing their feedback and suggestions.

On a motion duly made, seconded and voted, the meeting adjourned at 3PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Murphy
Secretary